

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: January 19, 2005

Division: District 1

Bulk Item: Yes ☐ No ☐

Department: Mayor Dixie M. Spehar

AGENDA ITEM WORDING:

Approval of a resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County requesting \$50,000,000.00 to be placed in Fiscal Years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 Transportation Infrastructure Appropriations Bills for centralized waste and storm water treatment facilities in Monroe County, Florida.

ITEM BACKGROUND:

The funding will be used to augment the local municipal, the County and the State of Florida's ongoing efforts to construct centralized waste and stormwater treatment facilities though out Monroe County, Florida.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

TOTAL COST: _____

BUDGETED: Yes ☐ No ☐

COST TO COUNTY: _____

SOURCE OF FUNDS: _____

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes ☐ No ☐ AMOUNT PER MONTH _____ Year _____

APPROVED BY: County Atty ☒ OMB/Purchasing _____ Risk Management _____

DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:

Dixie M. Spehar
Mayor Dixie M. Spehar

DOCUMENTATION: Included ☒ To Follow _____ Not Required _____

DISPOSITION: _____

AGENDA ITEM # 01

RESOLUTION NO. ____-2005

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING \$50,000,000 TO BE PLACED IN THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2006, 2007, 2008 AND 2009 TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS FOR CENTRALIZED WASTE AND STORM WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES IN MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

WHEREAS, long term effects of human waste seriously jeopardize the fragile health of the coral reef and supporting eco-systems in the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Act was approved on November 16, 1990; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires a Water Quality Protection Program to guide use of the Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, the Water Quality Protection Program identified problems, including the determination that human waste is the greatest detriment to the Florida Keys ecosystems, and has developed options for corrective action; and

WHEREAS, the federal Congress has failed to appropriate adequate funding to solve any problems produced by the impacts of human waste on the Florida Keys ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County have contracted and appropriated funding for a number of wastewater treatment systems and sewerage in order to resolve impacts, particularly from local residents; and

WHEREAS, the federal designation of the sanctuary and many federal and State of Florida regulations affecting Monroe County retain the attraction of the Florida Keys to visitors whose impacts on the fragile ecosystem are as detrimental to the ecosystems as are residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

1. The United States Congress is requested to provide \$50,000,000 in the fiscal years 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 Transportation Infrastructure Appropriations Bills for centralized waste and storm water treatment facilities throughout Monroe County Florida.

Mayor Dixie M. Spehar

2. The Clerk is directed to mail copies of this resolution to Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, the legislative delegation for Monroe County, Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the mayors of municipalities within Monroe County.

3. This Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida at a regular meeting of said board held on January 19, 2005.

Mayor Spehar _____
Mayor Pro Tem McCoy _____
Commissioner Nelson _____
Commissioner Neugent _____
Commissioner Rice _____

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MONROECOUNTY, FLORIDA**

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

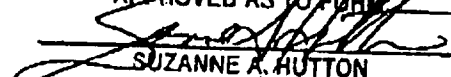
DANNY L. KOLHAGE, CLERK

By: _____

Deputy Clerk

By: _____
MAYOR

MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY
APPROVED AS TO FORM


SUZANNE A. HUTTON
ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
Date 1/19/05

Florida Keys Human Impact Mitigation Initiative

Requested Action

The fragile health of the Florida Keys coral reef and supporting eco-systems are in serious jeopardy because of long term human waste impacts. It is requested that fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000.00) be placed in the Federal FY 2006, FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009 Transportation Infrastructure Appropriations Bills in order to construct modern centralized waste water treatment facilities in order to mitigate human impacts. The funding would be used to augment the local municipal, the local county, and the state of Florida's ongoing efforts to construct the proposed centralized waste and storm water treatment facilities though out Monroe County, Florida.

Identified Long Term Problem

4 million tourists, per year, are stressing the fragile Florida Keys ecosystems.

Historical Background

On November 16, 1990 the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act, Public Law 101-605 (H.R. 5909) was approved. Congress directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Florida, represented by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), to develop a Water Quality Protection Program for the Sanctuary. The Water Quality Protection Program consists of an administrative framework and a set of initial recommendations for corrective actions, monitoring, research and special studies, and education and outreach. The recommendations have been published in the "Water Quality Protection Program Document" and are included in the comprehensive management plan prepared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to guide the use of the Sanctuary. The purpose of the Water Quality Protection Program is to "recommend priority corrective actions and compliance schedules addressing point and multipoint sources of pollution to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Sanctuary, including restoration and maintenance of a balanced, indigenous population of corals, shellfish, fish, and wildlife, and recreational activities on the water" (Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act). In addition to corrective actions, the Act also requires the development of a water quality monitoring program and the provision of opportunities for public participation in all aspects of developing and implementing the program.

Recommendations for monitoring and special studies are being implemented directly by the EPA and FDEP under the administration framework described in the Final Water Quality and Protection Program Document. For educational activities, the EPA and FDEP will assist NOAA, which is responsible for educational programs within the Sanctuary. In contrast, most recommendations for corrective actions will require coordination activities by numerous Federal, State, and local government agencies.

Development of the Water Quality and Protection Program occurred in two phases. During Phase I, information was compiled and synthesized on the status of the

Sanctuary's natural environment. Priority problems were identified through literature review and through discussions with technical experts and other participants in technical workshops. Phase II focused on developing options for corrective actions, developing a water quality monitoring program and research and special studies programs, and developing a public education and outreach program.

The Water Quality Monitoring and Protection Program has funded three long-term monitoring projects: overall water quality, coral reef and hard bottom community health, and sea grass community health. These three projects represent a five year commitment by the EPA to assess the health of coral reef, hard bottom, and sea grass communities within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary with a on focus issues and health concerns related to water quality. There is also a research/special studies component which consists of a multitude of smaller, more focused studies looking at specific cause and effect relationships and the impacts of specific environmental perturbations.

The Water Quality Monitoring and Protection Program has identified human waste as the greatest detrimental source of harmful products, impacting the Florida Keys ecosystems. To date, Congress has failed to appropriate adequate funding to solve any problem produced by human impact to the Florida Keys ecosystems.

Conclusion

The Florida Keys ecosystems are in long term decline. It is beyond the means of the residents of the region to handle the problem created from the large amount of visitors that frequent the area. Congressional funding support is needed to solve the long term deterioration to the Florida Keys ecosystems caused by human waste.

Contact:

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